

February 11, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After February vacation we will be starting a thematic unit in Social Studies and Writing about The Holocaust. The Holocaust was an important time in our history that we hope will never repeat itself. Education of the time period is key to ensuring that success. To help understand where we are going in history you need to understand where we've been. Students will be working on individual, small group and whole group projects throughout the unit. The unit deals with a lot of sensitive material and we encourage you to discuss this openly with your young adult at home.

If you go to <http://holocaustunit2012.wikispaces.com>, you can see the material that we will be using for this unit. You will also see most of the requirements for the projects. In Writing class the students will be reading a book written about the Holocaust. Students will be writing in response to what they are reading. *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne will be used as a read aloud. As part of the Common Core Standards: Analyze to what degree a filmed or live production of a drama or story stays faithful to or departs from the script or text, we will be watching the PG-13 movie (rated as such for some mature thematic material involving The Holocaust) when the book is completed. We will allow time for processing and discussion after the movie.

Should parents or guardians decide that the movie is not acceptable for their teens to see, we will provide an alternative assignment. Please feel free to contact us at any time with your concerns.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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